



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

For Immediate Release:
August 8, 2006

Contact: Eileen Force
(414)286-8504

Barrett asks State “How many more charges before Milwaukee taxpayers can stop paying fired cops?”

MILWAUKEE – Mayor Tom Barrett continues to express outrage as Milwaukee taxpayers are forced to keep paying officers fired from the Milwaukee Police Department who are charged with a crime. John Bartlett, a fired officer who continues to draw pay and special benefits is facing another felony charge after he attempted to purchase semiautomatic weapons and large amounts of ammunition last week, a purchase that if successful, would likely have been made with Milwaukee taxpayer dollars.

“How many more charges need to be filed before the State wakes up and sees how outrageous it is to keep paying these fired cops,” asked Barrett. “At the very moment I am working with limited resources to put more cops on the street with overtime pay and additional recruits, I have to watch thousands and thousands of dollars leave city coffers to pay people who have been fired from their jobs and charged with crimes.”

Since 1990, the cost of salary and benefits to ex-police officers who have been fired and charged with a crime has reached over \$2.5 million. Preliminary estimates show that pay and special benefits for fired officers will likely cost the City over \$250,000 in 2006 alone.

Barrett continued, “I want to commend Representative Barbara Toles for her tireless work on this issue and I want to remind legislators that we will be back. Milwaukee is the only city in the nation where taxpayers are forced to pay people who’ve been fired from their jobs and charged with crimes and enough is enough. I hope that action will be taken to stop this practice when the Legislature convenes next year.”